



# Legislative Reference Library: Water Resources Research Guide

*Includes lists of water-related agencies, organizations, databases, and research aids as well as citations to articles and reports published between 2008 and 2017. Focuses on water resources development, management, and use; water rights and allocation; and water planning and research.*

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, but instead serves as a starting point for those conducting research about water in Texas. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the library by calling (512) 463-1252.

Legislative Reference Library of Texas  
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February 2014

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November 2017

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## Texas Legislative Wrap-Ups

Texas Water Development Board. 2009. [Legislative Wrap-Up, 81st Legislative Session, 2009](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/administrative/doc/81st_LegeWrapup.pdf?d1020.995). Austin, TX: Texas Water Development Board. [http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/administrative/doc/81st\\_LegeWrapup.pdf?d1020.995](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/administrative/doc/81st_LegeWrapup.pdf?d1020.995).

LRL Collection: W605.4 W922 2009

Kramer, Ken, Stacey A. Steinbach, Jason Skaggs, Billy Hower, and Dean Robbins. 2011. "[82nd Texas State Legislature: Summaries of Water-related Legislative Action](https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/article/view/5886)." *Texas Water Journal*. 2 (1): 23-26. <https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/article/view/5886>.

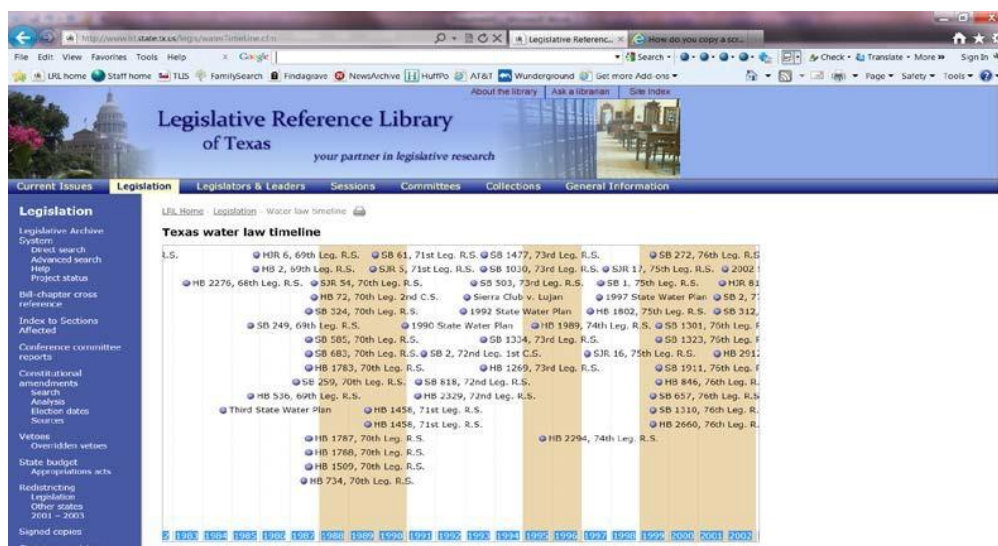
Robbins, Dean, Carol Batterton, Brad Castleberry, Ken Kramer, and Stacy A. Steinbach. 2013. "[83rd Texas State Legislature: Summaries of Water-related Legislative Action](https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/article/view/6999)." *Texas Water Journal*. 4 (2): 28-36. <https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/article/view/6999>.

Texas Agriculture Law Blog. 2013. [Water Bills - Summary of the 2013 Texas Legislative Session](http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2013/07/01/water-bills-summary-of-the-2013-texas-legislative-session/). College Station, TX: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. <http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2013/07/01/water-bills-summary-of-the-2013-texas-legislative-session/>.

U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. 2015. [Water Resource Issues in the 114th Congress](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42947.pdf), by Betsy A. Cody, Charles V. Stern, Nicole T. Carter, and Pervaze A. Sheikh. Washington, DC: Office of Congressional Information and Publishing. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42947.pdf>.

## Texas Water Timeline

The Legislative Reference Library's [Texas Water Law Timeline](#) provides links to water-related legislation and a history of water funding in Texas. Users can click and drag horizontally to pan over 180 years of water law history in Texas.



## **Water Glossaries**

Alliance for Water Efficiency

[Glossary of Common Water Related Terms, Abbreviations, Definitions](#)

Edwards Aquifer

[Glossary of Water Resource Terms](#)

Groundwater Foundation

[Groundwater Glossary](#)

Irrigation Association

[Irrigation Glossary](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Glossary of Hydrologic Terms](#)

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

[Glossary of River Terminology](#)

U.S. Geological Survey

[General Introduction and Hydrologic Definitions](#)

[Water Basics Glossary](#)

University of Texas, Department of Geological Sciences

[Glossary of Hydrogeological Terms](#)

## Water-Related Research Guides and Bibliographies

### Georgetown Law Library

#### [Water Law Research Guide](#)

Describes resources in the Georgetown Law Library and on the Internet for researching water law at the federal and state level. Provides links to federal legislation, state water codes, and general and federal agency websites related to water law. Written by the Georgetown Law Library. Current as of June 27, 2016.

### National Ground Water Association Annotated Bibliography

#### [Selected Groundwater Management Articles and Publications](#)

Includes materials published between 1994 and 2005. Revised January 2006. Current as of June 2013.

### Texas A&M University, Texas Water Initiative Water Marketing Information

#### [A Bibliographic Pathfinder on Water Marketing](#)

Seeks to capture important and relevant economic, legal, and planning literature. Covers water management, transfer, and marketing documents published between 1942 and 1998.

### United Nations International Secretariat on Disaster Reduction,

#### [Drought, Desertification and Water Scarcity](#)

Provides an overview of literature covering drought, desertification, and water scarcity. Published in May 2007.

### U.S. Army War College Library Selected Bibliography

#### [Water Scarcity](#)

With certain exceptions, includes materials published between 2006 and 2011. Highlights water scarcity concerns including: border disputes, impact on food supply, and shared responsibility for the future of water resources. Web sites accessed June 2011.

### U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library

#### [Water Quality Information Center Bibliographies](#)

Includes bibliographies produced by the Water Quality Information Center with date of publication listed after each title. Titles identified as "dynamic" produce real-time searches of the National Agricultural Library catalog AGRICOLA. The majority of these publications are several years old, and most are derived solely from AGRICOLA.

### U.S. Forest Service, Climate Change Resource Center Annotated Bibliography

#### [Effects of Climate Change: Water Resources and Water Use Bibliography \(by publication date\)](#)

Compiled by hydrologists Robert Gecy and Michael Furniss of the USDA Forest Service, this bibliography includes nearly 2,300 citations on climate change and its effects. Current as of 2015.

### U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center

#### [Instream Flow Link: Riverine Science](#)

Includes resources published between 1976 and 2012.

U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service.

[Selected Federal Water Activities: Agencies, Authorities, and Congressional Committees](#)

Lists federal agencies authorized by Congress to engage in major activities affecting water resource development, management, and use in the United States. Identifies authorities for such activities along with relevant House and Senate committee jurisdictions. Published in 2012.

[Selected Federal Water Activities: Agencies, Authorities, and Congressional Committees](#)

Includes tables that identify major federal activities by selected topic, associated departments and agencies, primary authorities as established by specific legislation, and committee jurisdiction. Published in 2017.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Prairie Research Institute, Illinois State Water Survey

[Groundwater Bibliography](#)

Contains select groundwater materials for use by researchers, practitioners, instructors, and students in the field with a few nontechnical sources included for the general public.

Compiled by the Illinois State Water Survey library staff, with contributions and input from the ISWS groundwater staff. Current as of January 2008.



## Water-Related Databases, Maps, and Interactive Tools

### [EPA Drinking Water Data & Tools](#)

Offers drinking water data and tools in several categories including: [Integrated Water Analysis](#), [Community Financing](#), [Drinking Water](#), [Water Restoration](#), and [Water Quality Models](#).

### [GreenFILE](#)

Features hundreds of scholarly and general interest titles, as well as government documents and reports, that focus on the relationship between human beings and the environment.

### [Lower Colorado River Authority Hydromet](#)

Offers interactive map displays from LCRA gauges located across the lower Colorado River basin. Provides real-time data on temperature, humidity, rain totals, lake levels, and stream flow.

### [National Academies, Division on Earth & Life Sciences - Water: Consensus Reports](#)

Provides access to over 900 reports, each produced by a committee of experts selected by the Academy to address a particular statement of task. All reports are subject to a rigorous, independent peer review.

### [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management - Digital Coast](#)

Aggregates data sets from a variety of sources to provide relevant information for coastal communities. Contains almost 2,000 data sets that can be downloaded by users, as well as 72 interactive tools, including the [Coastal Change Hazards Portal](#), [Estuary Data Mapper](#), and [Flood Event Viewer](#).

### [National Water Reuse Database](#)

Provides utility/facility general information and annual data on the flow, treatment, and end use of recycled water from the states reusing the most water.

### [Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Groundwater Conservation District Database](#)

Formerly the Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts Association. Lists Groundwater Conservation Districts that are voting members of TAGD. Provides enabling legislation and other information related to GCDs, including district population, community type, income, board members, and spacing requirements.

### [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)

The state's premier research and technology development agency in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences. Research strengths include water, land use, bioenergy, and sustainability.

### [Public Utility Commission of Texas' Water Utility Database](#)

The Water Utility Database can be used to search for water utilities by various criteria, including utility name, utility type, activity status, ownership type, county, and address. The database can also be used to search for local and regional entities associated with each district, utility, or water system.

#### [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Water District Database](#)

Provides a collection of data from water districts and public drinking water systems that submit information to TCEQ.

#### [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Geographic Data Viewers](#)

Provides access to geographical data viewers that integrate spatial datasets that the TCEQ maintains, including the [Edwards Aquifer Map Viewer](#), [Source Water Assessment Viewer](#), and the [Surface Water Quality \(Segments\) Viewer](#).

#### [Texas Water Development Board — Texas Natural Resources Information System \(TNRIS\)](#)

TNRIS maintains, distributes, and archives the largest collection of current and historical data sets for Texas. As a division of the TWDB, TNRIS aggregates geographic information system (GIS) data from local, state, and federal agencies.

#### [Texas Water Development Board — Water Data Interactive \(WDI\)](#)

Utilizes Internet-based mapping technology to improve access to water-related data through the following interactive applications:

[TexMesonet](#) — features include an weather map, historical weather, and data services.

[Texas FLOOD Viewer](#) — displays information regarding the following: flood gauges, lake conditions, weather alerts, and weather radar.

[Groundwater Data Viewer](#) — provides access to water-related data for Texas from several GIS datasets, including the [Groundwater Database \(GWDB\) Reports](#), [Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System \(BRACS\) Database](#), and the [Submitted Driller's Reports \(SDR\) Database](#).

[Major Aquifer 3D Viewer](#) — allows users to explore the major aquifers of Texas with a three-dimensional interface.

[2017 State Water Plan](#) — provides charts and graphs with data that complements the written version of the State Water Plan in order to allow users to see how water needs change over time.

[Water Data for Texas](#) — includes a drought index and monitoring information in addition to current and historical reservoir data, streamflow, and water conditions.

#### [Texas Water Digital Library](#)

Serves as centralized location for the works of universities and other water resource entities in Texas.

#### [Texas Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard](#)

This interactive rates and financial benchmarking dashboard is designed to assist utility managers and local officials with analyzing residential water and wastewater rates against multiple characteristics, including utility finances, system characteristics, customer base socioeconomic conditions, and geography.

#### [USGS - National Hydrography Dataset](#)

Contains features such as lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, canals, dams, and streamgages with data designed to be used in general mapping and the analysis of surface-water systems.

#### [USGS - Science in Your Watershed](#)

Provides access to information through three sites designed to help users locate scientific information organized on a watershed basis.

[Locate Your Watershed](#) — a mapping interface used to locate watersheds and link to additional information from specific watersheds.

[Information Discovery](#) — a list of projects, publications, and databases related to watersheds.

[Data Integration](#) — watershed tools, support groups, case studies, and geographic information systems information to help understand a watershed.

#### [USGS - Water Data for the Nation](#)

Provides access to water-resources data collected at approximately 1.5 million sites in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### [U.S. Drought Portal/National Integrated Drought Information System](#)

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was established in 2006 to provide the nation with a drought early warning system. The U.S. Drought Portal, as the public face of NIDIS, provides a clearinghouse of drought-related information including maps, tools, and information to help people prepare for and mitigate the effects of drought.

## Water-Related Subject Headings

### [Legislative Reference Library Online Catalog](#)

- Aquifers
- Droughts
- Drought relief
- Irrigation
- Groundwater
- Reservoirs
- Saline water conversion
- Sewage--Purification
- Water--Law and legislation
- Water conservation
- Water consumption
- Water resources development
- Water resources development--Planning
- Water reuse
- Water rights
- Water use
- Water-supply
- Water--Texas--Marketing
- Water--Texas--Planning
- Watershed management

### [Texas Legislature Online Bill Search](#)

### [Legislative Reference Library Legislative Archive System](#)

- Desalination
- Drought
- Environment-Water
- Environment--Water Law and legislation--Texas
- Irrigation & Irrigators
- Special Districts & Authorities--Groundwater Conservation Districts
- Special Districts & Authorities--Soil & Water Conservation
- Special Districts & Authorities--Water & Utility
- Special Districts & Authorities--Water Control Improvement Districts
- Utilities--Water & Sewer
- Water & Sewer Service
- Water--Conservation
- Water--Development
- Water--General
- Water--Navigation & Ports
- Water--Rights

[Legislative Reference Library Legislative Clipping Service](#)

Aquifers  
Droughts  
Environmental flows  
Groundwater  
Groundwater Conservation Districts  
Interbasin water transfers  
Irrigation  
Junior water rights  
Recharge zones  
Reservoirs  
Rule of capture  
Surface water  
Texas State Water Plan  
Texas Water Trust  
U.S.-Mexico Water Convention of  
1906 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty of  
1944 Wastewater management  
Water conservation  
Water desalination  
Water Development Board, Texas  
Water districts  
Water finance  
Water marketing  
Water masters  
Water pipelines  
Water planning  
Water policy  
Water pumping  
Water rights  
Water supplies  
Water treatment  
Water use taxes  
Water wells

## **Texas Water-Related State Agencies and Entities**

### [Drought Preparedness Council](#)

The drought preparedness council is responsible for assessing and reporting drought monitoring and water supply conditions; advising the governor on significant drought conditions; recommending specific provisions for a defined state response to drought-related disasters for inclusion in the state emergency management plan and the state water plan; advising regional water planning groups on drought-related issues in regional water plans; ensuring coordination among state, local, and federal agencies in drought-response planning; and informing the legislature of significant drought conditions in the state.

### [Office of the State Climatologist](#)

The OSC serves as a clearinghouse for climatic data and materials and provides information about Texas' climate to the rest of the world. The OSC monitors, conducts research, and issues reports regarding issues relevant to data users and decision-makers.

### [Public Utility Commission of Texas](#)

The PUC regulates the state's utilities, implements related legislation, and offers customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. In 2013, the Legislature transferred the economic regulation of water and sewer utilities from the TCEQ to the PUC. This transfer included functions relating to the regulation of water and sewer rates and services, Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCNs) and Sale/Transfer/Mergers from the TCEQ to the PUC.

### [Railroad Commission of Texas](#)

The RRC has jurisdiction over activities associated with the exploration, development, and production of oil, gas, and geothermal resources. The RRC requires permits for wells associated with oil and gas activities that draw saline or brackish water from formations below the base of usable quality water. When authorization to divert surface water is needed or when a fresh water well, whether the well is a rig supply well or an injection water supply well, is drilled above the base of usable quality water and fresh water is used, regulations other than those of the RRC apply.

### [State Soil and Water Conservation Board](#)

TSSWCB administers state soil and water conservation law, water quality, and water supply enhancement programs, and coordinates conservation and nonpoint source pollution abatement programs.

### [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

TCEQ is the state's environmental regulatory agency, focusing on water quality and quantity through various state and federal programs. The agency issues permits for the treatment and discharge of industrial and domestic wastewater and storm water, reviews plans and specifications for public water systems, and conducts assessments of surface and groundwater quality. Responsibilities also include establishing appropriate environmental flow requirements for each river basin. TCEQ plays a key role in [drought management](#) as well facilitating intra-agency cooperation and coordination by engaging local, state, federal, and international groups in the water management process.

#### [Texas Watermaster Program](#)

TCEQ's watermaster programs ensure compliance with water rights by monitoring stream flows, reservoir levels, and water use. Watermasters also coordinate diversions and regulate reservoirs as needed to prevent the wasting of water or its being used in quantities beyond a user's right. Currently, watermasters operate in three areas of the state: South Texas and the Concho and Rio Grande River basins.

#### [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

TDA supports the protection of agricultural crops and livestock from harmful pests and diseases; fosters trade and market development of agricultural commodities; provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers; offers grants for infrastructure development in rural areas; coordinates licensing of aquaculture facilities; and directs consumer protection, economic development, and healthy living programs.

#### [Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation](#)

TDLR regulates water well drillers under [Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1901](#). Rig supply wells must be drilled by licensed water well drillers. Completion and pugging of such wells must comply with TDLR regulations. Groundwater Conservation Districts have the authority to enforce the plugging regulations for abandoned or deteriorated water wells within their boundaries.

#### [Texas General Land Office](#)

The GLO is tasked with providing "prudent stewardship of state lands and resources," which includes administration of coastal submerged lands extending ten miles into the Gulf of Mexico. The GLO also oversees riverbeds and management of oil, gas, and mineral rights leasing on state properties. In addition to leasing water rights under state lands, in 2006 the GLO began accepting applications for the leasing of state lands to private investors for the purpose of extracting groundwater to sell to municipalities. The GLO also provides financial and technical assistance to programs such as the [Coastal Management Program](#) and the [Oil Spill Prevention and Response Research and Development](#).

#### [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#)

TPWD has primary responsibility for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the state's fish and wildlife resources. TPWD reviews and makes recommendations to minimize or avoid impacts on fish and wildlife resources resulting from water projects. The agency also works with regional and state water planning stakeholders and regulatory agencies to protect and enhance water quality and to ensure adequate environmental flows for rivers, bays, and estuaries.

#### [Texas Water Development Board](#)

TWDB is the state's primary water supply planning and financing agency. It supports the development of the 16 regional water plans and is responsible for developing the state water plan every five years. TWDB provides financial assistance to local governments for water supply and wastewater treatment projects, flood protection planning, flood control projects, agricultural water conservation projects, and groundwater district creation expenses.

#### [Water Conservation Advisory Council](#)

The Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council was established in 2007 by the Texas Legislature to serve as a select and expert resource to state government and the public on water conservation in Texas. Composed of 23 members appointed by the TWDB, the council has representation from a broad range of stakeholders including state and federal agencies, regional and local entities, environmental groups, higher education, industrial and agricultural water use sectors, and professional organizations.

### River Authorities

River authorities are quasi-governmental agencies that often vary in structure and function. The primary function of river authorities in Texas is to conserve and distribute state surface water in their respective basins. Many river authorities manage parks, regulate navigation, construct and operate reservoirs, generate and sell electric power, and oversee water recreation and conservation programs.

#### Lower Colorado River Authority

The LCRA is a conservation and reclamation district created by the Texas Legislature in 1934. It has no taxing authority and operates solely on utility revenues and fees generated from supplying energy, water, and community services. The LCRA supplies electric service in Central Texas, manages floods and water supplies in the lower Colorado River basin, provides public parks, supports community development in 58 Texas counties, and serves as a responsible steward of the Colorado River and the basin's natural resources.

### Groundwater Conservation Districts

GCDs are political subdivisions authorized by the legislature to manage and protect groundwater at the local level. GCDs adopt regulations aimed to protect and balance private property interests while considering current uses, supply and demand, and the long-term conservation of aquifers. The Texas Water Development Board is charged with the approval of groundwater management plans.

#### Edwards Aquifer Authority

The EAA produces drinking water for more than two million people. The Authority manages and regulates the portion of the Balcones Fault Zone Edwards Aquifer near San Antonio – a jurisdictional area of more than 8,000 square miles that includes all of Uvalde, Medina, and Bexar counties as well as parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal, and Hays counties. The EAA also heads up the Aquifer Science Research Program, which conducts a series of studies evaluating current water quality and availability in the Edwards Aquifer.

### Groundwater Management Areas

A GMA is a geographical area that coincides with the boundaries of aquifers and is ideal for the management of groundwater resources. GCDs [Groundwater Conservation Districts] are primarily formed along county lines; therefore, multiple GCDs join to form GMAs for the purposes of planning and determining the Desired Future Conditions of a shared aquifer. Responsibility for GMA delineation is delegated to the Texas Water Development Board. As of 2011, 96 GCDs existed in Texas covering all or part of 173 counties.

### Local Water Entities

Water may also be regulated by smaller entities created by local petitions or requests by county commissioners. These entities may operate wastewater plants or otherwise affect water, waterways, or the use of water. Included in this group are: Municipal Water Supply Districts, Water Improvement Districts, Water Control and Improvement Districts, Fresh Water Supply Districts, Drainage Districts, Levee Improvement Districts, Navigation Districts, Municipal Utility Districts.



## **Water-Related Federal Agencies**

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

#### [Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Water](#)

The EPA regulates nonpoint source pollution in addition to planning and setting standards for the protection of ground, surface, and drinking water. The EPA also provides [grants and financial assistance](#) for wastewater and water reuse projects, drinking water services, and capitalizes [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) for public water systems. It promotes nonagricultural water conservation through its [WaterSense Program](#). In addition, the EPA conducts and supports research on water security, healthy coastal waters and watersheds, safe drinking water, sustainable infrastructure, and the effects of climate change on water resources.

### **International Boundary and Water Commission**

#### [International Boundary and Water Commission](#)

Established in 1889, the IBWC has responsibility for applying boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that may arise in their application. The IBWC has focused on issues related to water owed to the United States by Mexico for the past two decades.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

#### [Agricultural Research Service](#)

The ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. ARS conducts research and develops solutions that address agricultural issues of the highest national priority. The Service provides access to information that ensures high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assesses the nutritional needs of Americans; sustains a competitive agricultural economy; enhances the natural resource base and the environment; and provides economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. ARS research also addresses water availability, water-use efficiency, and watershed management.

#### [Economic Research Service](#)

The ERS mission is to inform and enhance public and private decision making on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural development. The Agency's work is structured among four Divisions. Among other topics, the Resource and Rural Economics Division conducts research in water allocation, water conservation, water management issues, and other challenges facing irrigated agriculture in a changing water environment. Topics investigated include: the value of irrigated agriculture to U.S. agriculture, where it occurs, and what it produces; the cost and water-use impacts of producer decisions regarding the adoption of irrigation technologies and water-management practices; and water-related policies affecting resource costs, water quality, profitability, and environmental effects.

#### [Farm Service Agency](#)

The FSA serves farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners equitably through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs. The FSA oversees a number of voluntary conservation-related programs. These programs work to address a large number of farming and ranching related conservation issues including drinking water protection, reducing soil erosion, wildlife habitat preservation, preservation and restoration of forests and wetlands, and aiding farmers whose farms are damaged by natural disasters.

#### [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#)

The NASS provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. NASS's Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture. Conducted every five years, the Census provides a detailed picture of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the United States. The Census includes data on land watered by artificial or controlled means.

#### [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

The NRCS provides landowners with financial and technical assistance for soil and water conservation projects designed to promote productive lands and healthy ecosystems. The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land in order to conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality. Flood control dams on creeks and funding for watershed improvements on private lands through habitat management and conservation reserves are also facilitated by the NRCS. All 217 soil and water conservation districts in Texas have working mutual agreements with the USDA to provide grassroots input through the NRCS.

#### [Rural Utilities Service](#)

The RUS provides funding, through grants, loans, loan guarantees, and payments, for the development of rural utilities infrastructure such as water, waste management, power and telecommunications. Water and Environmental Programs provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. WEP also makes grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.

### **U.S. Army**

#### [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides design and engineering services and construction support for a variety of military and civilian projects worldwide. USACE activities include: constructing projects approved by Congress for flood control, commercial navigation, or shipping channel maintenance; emergency response to natural disasters; operating and maintaining flood control reservoirs and public reclamation facilities; and regulating activities in wetlands, including issuing dredge and fill permits and authorizing the establishment of wetland areas.

### **U.S. Department of Commerce**

#### [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#)

EDA works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments that are linked to long-term, sustainable economic development strategies. EDA program grants are designed to leverage existing regional assets to advance economic development strategies to promote economic prosperity in distressed communities. The Public Works Investment Program empowers distressed communities to expand and upgrade physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain private sector jobs and investment.

### [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

NOAA's mission is focused on understanding and predicting changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts. NOAA fulfills its mission through the following six major line offices:

[National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service](#) (NESDIS)

[NOAA Fisheries](#)

[National Ocean Service](#) (NOS)

[National Weather Service](#) (NWS)

[Office of Marine & Aviation Operations](#) (OMAO)

[Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research](#) (OAR) or NOAA Research

NOAA's [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#) provides information and products from contributing partners related to drought monitoring, forecasts, and impacts.

## **U.S. Department of Energy**

### [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)

FERC is an independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity. FERC also regulates natural gas and hydropower projects. In licensing nonfederal natural gas and hydroelectric projects, FERC gives consideration to both protection and enhancement of aquatic resources and habitats affected by project construction and operation.

### [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#)

EERE leads the U.S. Department of Energy's efforts to develop market-driven solutions for energy-saving homes, buildings, manufacturing, sustainable transportation, and renewable electricity generation. The [Federal Energy Management Program](#) works with key individuals to enable federal agencies to meet energy-related goals and to provide energy leadership to the country. FEMP produces federal water efficiency requirements, best management practices, and [other helpful water efficiency resources](#).

## **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

### [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

FEMA is the central agency within the federal government for emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Working closely with state and local governments, FEMA funds emergency programs and offers technical guidance and training. FEMA's programs include response to, and recovery from, major natural and man-caused emergencies, emergency management planning, flood-plain management, hazardous materials planning, dam safety, and multi-hazard response planning. FEMA also administers the National Flood Insurance Program, which determines 100- and 500-year floodplains.

## **U.S. Department of the Interior**

### [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)

The BIA is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres of land and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in trust by the United States for Native Americans in the United States, Native American Tribes, and Alaska Natives. The BIA's [Branch of Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation](#) is responsible for the federal government trust responsibilities relative to aquatic resources and funds tribal roles in aquatic resource management. The [Division of Water and Power \(DWP\)](#) promotes self-determination, economic opportunities, and public safety through sound management of irrigation, dam, and power facilities owned or operated by the BIA.

### [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. As the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States, the USBR manages 492 dams and 338 reservoirs with the capacity to store 140 million acre-feet of water; delivers water to one in every five western farmers for about 10 million acres of irrigated land; provides water to over 31 million people for municipal, rural, and industrial use; is the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power, generating 40 billion kilowatt hours of energy per year from 53 power plants; and addresses water resource challenges posed by drought, climate change, depleted aquifers, environmental needs, energy demands, and population increases in the West.

### [United States Geological Survey](#)

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life. The [Water Resources Division](#) of the USGS has principal responsibility within the Federal Government to provide the hydrologic information and understanding needed by others to achieve the best use and management of the Nation's water resources. Scientific data and information from the USGS make it possible to understand and protect water for many uses, including safe drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, rivers and streams for recreational activities, and water allocations among competing uses by industry, agriculture, and municipalities. The [USGS Texas Water Science Center](#) works in cooperation with approximately 100 municipalities, river authorities, groundwater districts, as well as state and federal agencies in Texas to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers.

### [United States Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

The FWS helps protect a healthy environment for people, fish and wildlife, and helps Americans conserve and enjoy the nation's living treasures. FWS's major responsibilities are for migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish. The agency's primary impact on water resources is through its enforcement, along with NOAA, of the Endangered Species Act and its participation in Army Corps of Engineers and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality proceedings.

### [Coastal Program](#)

## **Water-Related Organizations**

[Alliance for Water Efficiency](#)

[American Membrane Technology Association](#)

[American Rivers](#)

[American Water Resources Association](#)

[American Water Works Association](#)

[Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies](#)

[Groundwater Foundation](#)

[Groundwater Protection Council](#)

[Irrigation Association](#)

[National Association of Clean Water Agencies](#)

[National Drought Mitigation Center](#)

[National Institutes for Water Resources](#)

[National Groundwater Association](#)

[National Water Research Institute](#)

[National Water Resources Association](#)

[Water Environment Federation](#)

[Water Infrastructure Network \(WIN\)](#)

[Water Reuse Association](#)

[Water Reuse Research Foundation](#)

[Water Research Foundation](#)

 [Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)

## **Texas Water-Related Organizations**

[Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program](#)

[Environment Texas](#)

[Sierra Club - Lone Star Chapter](#)

[Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association](#)

[Texas Ground Water Association](#)

[Texas Rural Water Association](#)

[Texas Turf Irrigation Association](#)

[Texas Desalination Association](#)

[Texas Water Conservation Association](#)

[Texas Water Foundation](#)

[Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee](#)

 [Funding Resources Guide](#)

 [Private Financing Resource List](#)

## **Water Research and Degree Programs at Universities in Texas**

### **Texas A&M University**

#### [Texas Water Resources Institute](#)

First established in 1952, TWRI was designated as the water resources institute for the state of Texas in 1964 following passage of the federal Water Resources Research Act. The WRRRA established water resources institutes in each state and provided funds for research into water issues. Today, TWRI is one of 54 institutes in the National Institute for Water Resources, which serves as the contact between individual institutes and the federal funding sponsor, the U.S. Geological Survey.

#### [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)

Texas A&M AgriLife Research serves the state through its on-campus units as well as its regional Research and Extension Centers. While maintaining a traditional connection to farming and ranching, AgriLife researchers are helping to develop crops with enhanced nutrition, leading innovative research for renewable energy sources, working with the U.S. military to sustain training lands, and implementing new methods to improve air and water quality.

#### [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#)

Through a vast network of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices, over 900 educators provide high-quality, community-based education services to the citizens of Texas. Programs prepare Texans to eat well, stay healthy, manage money, and improve stewardship of the environment and the state's natural resources.

#### [Texas Water](#)

A collaboration among Texas A&M's Water Degree Program, the College of Geosciences, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas Water aims to educate citizens, public officials, and policymakers about Texas water resources and their uses and encourage a more efficient use of water.

### **Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi**

#### [Center for Coastal Studies](#)

The CCS conducts interdisciplinary aquatic research on basic and applied issues, ecological monitoring, and public education/outreach. The Center also supports graduate-level education through research grants and contracts. Scientists and students focus on topics in the Texas Coastal Bend and beyond.

#### [Center for Water Supply Studies](#)

The CWSS is a non-degree-granting institution that supports undergraduate and graduate students seeking degrees in various disciplines. The CWSS focuses on research and education to develop professionals and leaders who can recognize and address water issues. Through active research, the CWSS provides the information needed to evaluate alternative strategies for local and regional management of surface and subsurface water resources.

## **Texas State University**

### **Meadows Center for Water and the Environment**

The Meadows Center serves as an integrating mechanism for the university's multidisciplinary expertise in aquatic resources. The Meadows Center's areas of study include rivers and springs, streams, aquifers, and the watersheds that feed them, as well as the lakes, bays, and estuaries into which they flow. The main focus of The Meadows Center is to promote a holistic approach to the management of water and the environment that affects it, where key principles of sustainability and equitable use guide sound water policy.

## **Texas Tech University**

### **Water Resources Center**

Since its establishment by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents in 1965, the WRC has encouraged, conducted, and coordinated water resources research and related activities. The WRC also provides public services through its publications, seminars, workshops, and as a resources contact with access to water-related experts throughout the campus.

## **University of Texas at Austin**

### **Bureau of Economic Geology**

The Bureau's mission is to provide research and advice related to energy and environmental issues and to perform State Geological Survey functions as requested by the State Legislature. Outreach efforts involve the public, State agencies, Federal agencies, private foundations, and industry. The Bureau conducts basic and applied research related to energy resources including oil, natural gas, and coal; mineral resources; coastal processes; Earth and environmental systems; hydrogeology; carbon sequestration; nanotechnology; energy economics; and geologic mapping.

### **Center for Sustainable Water Resources**

Located at the Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, the SWR conducts studies related to water quantity and quality aspects of water resources at local scales using field studies and regional scales using remote sensing and at annual to millennial timescales. Impacts of land use change and climate variability/change are important drivers considered in these studies. Results of these studies have important implications for development of sustainable water resource programs in different regions.

## **University of Texas at El Paso**

### **Center for Inland Desalination Systems**

The CIDS is a newly formed center that is studying desalination-related issues. Current research includes seawater pilot demonstrations in Libya and highly efficient brackish desalination pilot demonstrations in New Mexico, California, Texas, and Florida. CIDS plans to research technologies and approaches that will maximize the benefits of desalination, while minimizing input energy and negative environmental impacts.



## University of Texas at San Antonio

### [Center for Water Research](#)

The CWR's mission is to emphasize multi-disciplinary approaches to solving practical water resource problems. The Center, which is affiliated with the College of Engineering and the College of Sciences at the University of Texas at San Antonio, serves as a resource for universities, research, education, governmental, commercial communities, and the public for water and related environmental issues.

### [Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute](#)

The University of Texas at San Antonio created the Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute to partner with the local community and contribute to a new energy future that builds on a diverse resource base to position San Antonio as a significant contributor to the 21st century global energy economy. Among other things, the Institute is working with local stakeholders to develop a multi-disciplinary regional approach for long-term sustainable energy and water supply for the South Central Texas region.

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